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A Comparative Statistical Study of Eighty Non-Recidivous and Recidivous Delinquents

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A COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL STUDY OF
EIGHTY NON-RECIDIVOUS AND
RECIDIVOUS DELINQUENTS

by

William S. Pilcher

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the School of
Social Work of Loyola University in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Social Work

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LIFE

William S. Pilcher was born in Davenport, Iowa, September 19, 1925.

He was graduated from Davenport High School, Davenport Iowa, June, 1943 and from the University of Iowa, June, 1950, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. During the summer months from 1946 to 1950 he took courses at Saint Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa. He began his graduate studies at Loyola University in September, 1950.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this study is to compare, through an analysis of case records, factors that could differentiate between non recidivous and recidivous delinquents. It is difficult to measure why some boys make apparent adjustments after their release from the training school. Two indicators of the delinquents success or failure is their adjustment in the community after release from the institution and the recidivist rate itself. All institutions know their recidivist rate but even this knowledge throws but a partial light on the fundamental question: what are the causative factors of recidivism? The problem is involved and complex and there is no single solution.

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Throughout this study, reference is constantly made to non recidivous and recidivous groups. For the purpose of clarity consideration is now given to a defining of these terms.

In the non recidivous are those boys who had been committed to the Illinois State Training School for Boys had been released, and are apparently making a satisfactory adjustment in the community.

In the recidivous group are those who had been committed

to the Illinois State Training School for Boys released, and later had been committed again to the Illinois State Training School for Boys. A small proportion of this group were recommitted as many as four times but the majority were twice returned.

From an annual report of the Illinois Department of Public Welfare it was learned that:

A total of 18,405 boys had been admitted to the institution, some of them several different times as returned parole violators, by the end of the last fiscal year. On June 30, 1949, returnees made up 30.1 percent of the total population. ¹

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS:

Due to limitations of time the study was of necessity confined to a limited scope. The study was focused on the period 1943 through 1946 because of the availability of closed cases of boys ranging in ages of thirteen through fifteen. Boys of ages over fifteen were not considered because it was felt that a sufficient span of time should elapse before the boys reached the age of seventeen and had had ample opportunity to violate parole.

The Illinois Revised Statutes of 1949 sets forth that:

When court declares a male under 17 years of age or a female under 18 years of age delinquent and enters order, the court may commit that child to some training school if male, an industrial school, if female, or any institution incorporated under the laws of Illinois to care for

¹ State of Illinois, Annual Report of the Department of Public Welfare, 1949, 24

dependent, neglected and delinquent children, including Illinois State Training School for Boys and the Illinois State Training School for Girls.²

Into this span of time fell the two groups of delinquents, forty of whom were non recidivous and forty who were recidivous. The groups consisted of white, male, juvenile offenders, who were committed to the Illinois State Training School for Boys on delinquency petitions through Cook County Juvenile Court. This study deals with only the factors present at the time of the first commitment of both groups.

METHOD AND SOURCE:

Since many hundreds of boys committed thus far could not be studied, a sample group for a limited period was selected. A random sampling of eighty cases was chosen by selecting every third case from the total number arranged alphabetically in the closed files of the Field Parole Service, Illinois Department of Public Welfare, Regional Office II.

In order to present the data uniformly a schedule was constructed that would bring together the pertinent facts from each case in such a manner that the material could be reduced to comparative tables. (See Appendix A.)

THE AGENCY:

As a background for the study, and in order to present

2. Illinois Revised Statutes 1949, Chapter 23, Section 205, 376

the study in its true perspective, the Field Parole Service Units present day organizational structure should be understood. This unit of the Department of Public Welfare, State of Illinois was organized in 1947 within the broad administrative heading of the Educational and Correctional Service of the Department and thus became a part of the State Welfare Departments services to children and youth.

The work of the parole service unit is carried on through six regional offices throughout the State which give service to children through local contact. The Region II office where the present study was made, is located in Chicago and includes the counties of Cook, Lake and DuPage.

As this study involves not only precommitment factors but also commitment and post placement plans, it is necessary to consider the training school in relation to the Parole Service Unit. Immediately after the boy's arrival at the training school, the school sends to the Unit a request for a preclassification report and includes a copy of the boy's arrival report. When this request is received, a case record is made-up on the boy. The unit then clears and registers the case with the local Social Service Exchange and contacts the agencies registered.

The primary object of the preclassification study is to give information on the emotional, physical, and social make-up of the boy, insight into his personal needs, and influences surrounding the boy which will bear on the success of parole and the final adjustment. Each boy must be evaluated in relation to his particular needs, capacities and limitations rather than on the sole basis of the offense for which he was committed to the training school. This gives the institution more complete information with which to work for the successful adjustment of the boy.

At pertinent times during the course of the commitment the training school sends to the unit summaries of the boy's adjustment in the school. Summaries of the psychological and psychiatric reports following the diagnostic study are sent as well as a social history. The periodic reports inform the unit of the boy's institutional adjustment and his progress in the rehabilitation program.

The training school notifies the committing court by letter, at the same time a preplacement request is sent to the Unit of Parole Service, that the boy is eligible for placement consideration. The training school sends a summary of all in-

formation of the boy's adjustment to the judge and sends to the office of the Unit of Field Parole Service a copy of the letter to the committing court.

In preplacement planning, the regional worker enlists the full facilities and resources of other services within the regional office. There is a careful review of the boy in relation to his family, community and resources. The training school indicates the type of placement they feel is advisable; however, after a study the plan suggested may not be feasible.

After a boy has returned on parole, the worker visits him as soon as possible in his home or in the regional office. It is the parole worker's responsibility to assist the parolees released from the training school in his adjustment to a new life. Contacts are made by the worker with the parolee and his family, on a casework basis. To the parolee and to his family the worker is both a friend and counselor.

METHOD OF PRESENTING STUDY:

The study is presented in the order of the essential parts of the schedule. The first section contains the precommitment factors and deals with the neighborhood, the home and factors concerning the boy in the community. The second section covers

the commitment factors concerning the boy's adjustment at the training school. The third section contained the post-commitment plans and the placement of the boys. This method of presentation is employed in order to present generalized conclusions drawn from the information secured about the two groups of boys and their families.

CHAPTER II

PRE COMMITMENT FACTORS

This chapter deals with the comparative factors evidenced in the social histories of the recidivous and non recidivous delinquents prior to their first commitment. These factors are presented in the order of the neighborhood, the physical characteristics of the home, the make-up of the household, the economic factors and the delinquent in the community.

Helen D. Pigeon states that:

Naturally the home is of first importance in the social situation, whether it is an adult or juvenile offender who is involved. Its influences are complex, including physical conditions of the home and its vicinity, the structure and spirit of family life and the attitudes and relationships within the family group.³

NEIGHBORHOOD:

First of the factors to be considered is the geographic location of the residences of the two groups. The accompanying figure (Fig. 1) shows that the majority of the homes fall within an area that is bounded by the 2700 block on the north, the 4000 block on the west, the 3900 block on the south, and State Street on the east. Out of seventy-one homes located within the city limits of Chicago, forty-three homes fall into this area.

³ Helen D. Pigeon, Principles and Methods in Dealing with Offenders, Department of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1944, 258

The places of residence of the two groups, at the time of their commitment, appear to be equally distributed. The outlying residential areas and suburban communities have a conspicuously small number of the delinquents.

Table I gives a breakdown of the communities in which the two groups reside. The greater majority of the boys live in the city of Chicago.

Table I
PLACE OF RESIDENCE

CITY	NON RECIDIVOUS	RECIDIVOUS
Chicago.....	38	33
Evanston.....	1	2
Melrose Park.....	0	2
Bridgeview.....	0	1
Argo.....	0	1
Maywood.....	0	1
Trenton.....	1	0
TOTALS	40	40

Table II gives a description of the type of neighborhood in which the boys live. Twenty-six (32.6 per cent) boys reside in an area of heavy manufacturing and railroads, twenty-one (26.2 per cent) reside near light manufacturing and commercial establishments, twenty-four (30.0 per cent) live in a residential

7200N.-

6800N.-

6400N.-

6000N.-

5600N.-

5200N.-

4800N.-

4400N.-

4000N.-

3600N.-

3200S.-

2800S.-

2400S.-

2000S.-

1600S.-

1200S.-

800S.-

400S.-

0

400S.-

800S.-

1200S.-

1600S.-

2000S.-

2400S.-

2800S.-

3200S.-

3600S.-

4000S.-

4400S.-

4800S.-

Houly

Devon

Bryn Mawr

Lawrence

Irving St

Belmont

Fullerton

North

Chicago

Madison

Roosevelt

Cornak

21st

Worshing

27th

35th

63rd

71st

7th

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

13th

14th

● Goldilocks
○ Goldilocks

area while the remaining nine (11.2 per cent) reside outside the Chicago area and the type of neighborhood was not available in the record.

A manufacturing area ordinarily connotes a great density of population, with the overcrowding of homes. Overcrowding contributes to delinquency in many ways and is possibly accompanied by poverty, poor health and many intangible factors. It is difficult to say just how much this factor will contribute to the rate of delinquency or to recidivism, but it does accompany it in a large percentage of cases.

Table II

TYPE OF NEIGHBORHOOD

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TOTAL GROUP</u>
Heavy Manufacturing and Railroads.....	26
Light Manufacturing and Commercial Establishments.....	21
Residential.....	24
Unknown.....	9
Total	<hr/> 80

Although the length of residence could be an important factor in comparing the recidivous and non-recidvous, it was not

possible to do so in this study. Information was only obtainable in thirty-seven out of eighty cases. The available information indicates a close similarity, as seen in the table below.

Table III
LENGTH OF TIME AT PRESENT ADDRESS

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE	NON-RECIDIVOUS	RECIDIVOUS
Less than 1 year.....	1	0
1 to 2 years.....	2	4
2 to 3 years.....	4	1
3 to 4 years.....	2	1
4 to 5 years.....	1	0
5 to 6 years.....	1	2
6 to 7 years.....	1	0
7 to 8 years.....	0	1
8 years or more.....	9	7
Unknown.....	19	24
TOTALS	40	40

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HOME:

The purpose of considering the physical characteristics of the home was to compare the residences of the two groups in

terms of available space. According to Table IV there is very little difference in the type of house of the two groups of boys. Twenty-seven (67.5 percent) of the non recidivous as compared to twenty-nine (72.5 percent) of the recidivous lived in apartment houses at the time of commitment, while the remaining eleven recidivous and thirteen non recidivous reside in private dwellings.

Table IV
TYPE OF HOUSE

DESCRIPTION	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Apartment.....	27	67.5	29	72.5
Private.....	13	32.5	11	27.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

The homes of the non recidivous have more available space than the homes of the recidivous, according to Table V. Twenty-three (57.5 per cent) of the non recidivous boys' homes have six or more rooms, as compared to eight (20 percent) of the recidivous boys' homes.

Table V
NUMBER OF ROOMS

NUMBER	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
2 rooms.....	1	2.5	1	2.5
3 rooms.....	1	2.5	2	5.0
4 rooms.....	10	25.0	13	32.5
5 rooms.....	5	12.5	15	37.5
6 rooms.....	10	25.0	4	10.0
7 rooms.....	9	22.5	4	10.0
8 rooms.....	4	10.0	1	2.5
TOTALS	40	100.00	40	100.0

Table VI indicates a possible reason for the favorable difference in the available space of the non recidivous boys' homes. Twenty-one (52.5 per cent) of the non recidivous homes are occupied by six or more person while this is true in only fifteen (37.5 per cent) of the recidivous homes.

Table VI
SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Less than 4 persons.....	7	17.5	6	15.0
4 or 5 persons.....	12	30.0	19	47.5
6 or 7 persons.....	13	32.5	9	22.5
8 persons or more.....	8	20.0	6	15.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

It is clear therefore, that in considering the physical characteristics of the homes, there is very little difference between the two groups. Although there was no marked difference in comparing the homes, an over-all picture of both groups indicates an over-crowding of the homes.

MAKE-UP OF THE HOUSEHOLD:

The perplexing question of "broken homes" is now dealt with. There is no substitute for normal home life and the intelligent rearing of children. The degree of harmony in the home is reflected in the personality of the children. The affection a child holds for his parents can withstand a good deal of

abuse, but when there are mental conflicts and emotional disturbances between the parents which are reflected onto the child, then the situation becomes extremely difficult.

As Irving W. Halpern states:

Through the family we trace the roots of the individual. His family usually represents his place in the social scale and the influences which are thrown about him in his family life are as far reaching as any other contacts which he makes. His social codes find their basis in this fabric and to a large extent he gives expression in his daily life to the influences which play upon him in the relationships. The attitude of the parents, friction and discord, lack of sympathy and understanding, neglect and antagonism, both subtle and apparent,⁴ all have their places in the making of the offender.

The first step in this comparison of the two groups is to point out with whom the boys were living at the time of commitment. Table VII shows that twenty-one (52.5 per cent) of the non recidivous boys as compared with sixteen (40.0 per cent) of the recidivous were living with both parents; twelve (30.0 per cent) non recidivous as compared with eight (20.0 per cent) of the recidivous were living with only one parent; one (2.5 per cent) non recidivous compared with eleven (27.5 per cent) recidivous were living with one natural parent and one step-parent; and six (15.0 per cent) non recidivous compared with five (12.5 percent) recidivous were living with two foster parents or other

⁴ Irving W. Halpern, A Decade of Probation, New York, 1937, 79

relatives.

Table VII
PARENTS IN THE HOME

Parent in the Home	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Both parents.....	21	52.5	16	40.0
One natural parent.....	12	30.0	8	20.0
One natural parent and one step-parent.....	1	2.5	11	27.5
Two foster parents or other relatives.....	6	15.0	5	12.5
TOTALS	40	100.00	40	100.0

Table VIII
PARENTAL MARITAL STATUS

PARENTS WHEREABOUTS	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Parents Together.....	21	52.5	16	40.0
One Parent Deserted.....	3	7.5	2	5.0
Separated or Divorced....	5	12.5	15	37.5
Father Dead.....	5	12.5	1	2.5
Mother Dead.....	1	2.5	1	2.5
Both Dead or Unknown.....	5	12.5	5	12.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

The above table (Table VIII) presents the parental marital status previous to the commitment of the youths. Significant is the fact that three times as many recidivous had parents who were either separated or divorced.

While the rate of broken homes is higher among the families of the recidivous groups, this is not, per se, the most significant factor in producing recidivism. The breaking of the home is actually less important than the way it is broken, that is, whether through death or separation and divorce. The psychological effects on children caused by family disturbances and conflicts arising from separation and divorce are more deleterious.

It is not only important that the home was disrupted, but of further significance is the time of the child's life that the break took place.

Table IX deals with the age at the time of the home disruption of the two groups. Twelve (63.0 per cent) of the nineteen non recidivous who experienced a break in the home, had this disruption occur prior to the age of 10. This is compared with sixteen (66.6 per cent) of the recidivous falling into the same category.

Table IX

BREAK-UP OF HOME TABULATED ACCORDING TO
TYPES OF DISRUPTION AND PERIOD OF
OCCURRENCE

Type of Break-up of Home	Age at Time of Breaking in Home							
	Non-Recidivous				Recidivous			
	Birth to 4	5-9	10-15	Total	Birth to 4	5-9	10-15	Total
Mother Dead.....	2	1	...	3	1	...	1	2
Father Dead.....	2	1	2	5	1	...	...	1
Both Dead.....	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1
Father Deserted or Separated.....	1	...	3	4	...	2	3	5
Both Deserted or Separated.....	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	2
Divorce.....	3	1	1	5	3	6	4	13
No Break-up of home				31				16
TOTAL	8	4	7	40	7	9	8	40

Table X reveals that twenty-four (60.0 per cent) of both parents of the non recidivous and twenty-five (62.5 percent) of the recidivous were native born. One parent was native born, the other foreign born in the case of six (15.0 per cent) non-recidivous and seven (17.5 per cent) recidivous delinquents; while

both parents of eight (20.0 percent) of the non recidivous and seven (17.5 percent) of the recidivous were born in the same foreign country. Both parents were both in different foreign countries among two (5.0 percent) and one (2.5 percent) of the non recidivous and recidivous respectively.

The general cultural matrix of the lives of the parents of both groups of boys would therefore appear to be similar.

Table X

NATIVITY OF BOTH PARENTS

Nativity	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Both Native.....	24	60.0	25	62.5
One Native;Other Foreign	6	15.0	7	17.5
Both Same Foreign Country	8	20.0	7	17.5
Each different Foreign Country.....	2	5.0	1	2.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

In Tables XI and XII the respective ages of mothers and fathers of the two groups at the time of the boy's commitment is considered. It is interesting to note that the average (mean) age of the thirty-seven known mothers of the non recidivous boys

was 46.4 years of age as compared to the average age of 41.3 of the thirty-six known mothers of the recidivous.

Table XI

AGE OF MOTHER AT TIME OF
SON'S COMMITMENT

Age of Mother	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
30 to 35 years.....	5	10
36 to 40	7	6
41 to 45	10	7
46 to 50	8	8
51 to 55	3	2
56 to 60	4	2
61 to 65	0	1
Unknown.....	3	4
TOTALS	40	40

The average age of the thirty known fathers of the non recidivous groups was 51.5 years while the mean age of the thirty-four known fathers of the recidivous boys was 46.6 years.

Table XII

AGE OF FATHER AT TIME OF SON'S COMMITMENT

Age of Father	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
30 to 35.....	0	5
36 to 40.....	4	9
41 to 45.....	5	6
46 to 50.....	5	3
51 to 55.....	10	4
56 to 60.....	3	4
61 to 65.....	2	3
66 to 70.....	1	0
Unknown.....	10	6
TOTALS	40	40

An important factor to be considered is the health of the mother and father at the time of the boy's commitment. The effect of illness in producing irritability, nervousness, invalidism with its consequent economic repercussions, has of course a good deal of influence, although often unsuspected and unnoticed, upon the children.

Information regarding the health of the parents was

obtainable in a very few cases and was presumably only given when extreme disability was apparent. Only four of thirty-seven mothers of the non recidivous boys were listed as being in poor health, two of whom were classified as being feeble-minded while the remaining two were said to be suffering from physical ailments. This is compared with two of thirty-six mothers of recidivous boys who were stated to be suffering from physical ailments.

As for the health of the fathers, only two of thirty fathers of the non recidivous group were declared to be in poor physical health, requiring confinement to the home, as compared with three of thirty-four fathers in recidivous group.

The mothers and fathers mentioned above were not necessarily the boy's own mother and father, but in some cases were step-parents, foster parents or relatives. It can be assumed that there were a few instances where the boy's own mother and father who, for some reason or other were not residing in the home at the time of commitment, had previously suffered from illness. But since there was very little mention in the case records pertaining to the health of the parents, no comparative analysis was possible.

The delinquents were fairly evenly divided between the Catholic and Protestant religions as indicated in Table XIII. Of

the forty non recidivous boys studied, eighteen were living with a parent or parents who were Catholic, thirteen living with Protestant parent or parents, eight residing with one Catholic parent and one Protestant parent and one living with Jewish parents. This compared with seventeen recidivous boys living with Catholic parent or parents, nine residing with Protestant parent or parents, twelve living with one Catholic parent and one Protestant parent, one living with Jewish parents and one residing with parents professing no religious faith.

Table XIII
RELIGION OF PARENTS ¹

Religion	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
Catholic.....	18	17
Protestant.....	13	9
Mixed.....	8	12
Jewish.....	1	1
None.....	0	1
TOTALS	40	40

¹ Table includes foster parents, step-parents and guardians

It is debatable whether or not the number of children in the family or the order of birth of the boys has any connection with recidivism, but the fact that it is debatable makes it important enough to present the findings in this study.

Of the non recidivous group in Table XIV, there was an average (mean) of 4.3 siblings per family including the boy himself as compared to the recidivous group having an average (mean) of 4.0 siblings per family.

Table XIV
CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY ²

Children	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
1 Child.....	6	15.0	7	17.5
2 Children.....	4	10.0	6	15.0
3 children.....	3	7.5	11	27.5
4 Children.....	10	25.0	2	5.0
5 Children.....	5	12.5	4	10.0
6 Children.....	7	17.5	1	2.5
7 Children.....	1	2.5	4	10.0
8 Children.....	4	10.0	5	12.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

² Table includes not only the boy and his full brothers and sisters, but also any half and step-brothers and sisters.

In Table XI, the rank of the boys among their brothers and sisters was considered. Lower proportions of the non recidivous were only children (15.0 percent : 17.5 percent), first born (30.0 percent : 42.5 percent) while a lower proportion of the recidivous were middle children (25.0 percent : 32.5 percent) and youngest (15.0 percent : 22.5 percent).

Table XV

RANK OF BOY AMONG BROTHER AND SISTERS

RANK	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Only Child.....	6	15.0	7	17.5
First Born.....	12	30.0	17	42.5
Middle.....	13	32.5	10	25.0
Youngest.....	9	22.5	6	15.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

Table XVI surprisingly reveals that in the recidivous boys' families there are fewer court records of others in the family than is the case of the non recidivous boys' families. Other court records in the families of this latter group consisted of three (7.5 percent) fathers, nine (22.5 percent) one (2.5 percent) sister of the recidivous group.

Table XVI
COURT RECORD OF OTHERS
IN FAMILY

Relationship	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Father.....	3	7.5	1	2.5
Brother.....	9	22.5	7	17.5
Sister.....	0	0	1	2.5
None.....	28	70.0	31	77.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

ECONOMIC FACTORS:

Entering upon the area of the economic status, the first examination is of the source of family income. Table XVII, considers the income of those in the homes of the recidivous than of the non recidivous boys. In twelve (30.0 percent) of the non recidivous and in nineteen (47.5 percent) of the recidivous homes the father is the only earner; in a few instances in both sets of families the mother is the only source of income (10.0 percent: 2.5 percent); in a somewhat larger proportion (15.0 percent : 22.5 percent) both of the parents are working. In seven (17.5 percent) of the non recidivous and in three (7.5 percent) of the recidivous not only the father but one or more siblings are employed and contributing to the family income; in 7.5 percent and 5.0 percent of the families respectively, the mothers and one

or more siblings are contributing to the total income; in few instances (7.5 percent:5.0 percent) both parents and one or more siblings are working. In 10 percent of the non recidivous and 5.0 percent of the recidivous the parents are no contributing to the support of the family and it is provided by one or more of the siblings. In (2.5 percent:5.0 percent), respectively, relief is the only source of income. All reference to this table and following tables dealing with the employment of the fathers and mothers, or parents include substitute fathers and mothers.

Tabel XVII

SOURCES OF FAMILY INCOME

Sources	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Father only.....	12	30.0	19	47.5
Mother only.....	4	10.0	1	2.5
Mother and Father.....	6	15.0	9	22.5
Father and one or more Siblings.....	7	17.5	3	7.5
Mother and one or more Siblings.....	3	7.5	2	5.0
Father, mother and one or more siblings	3	7.5	2	5.0
One or more siblings only.....	4	10.0	2	5.0
Relief as main source.	1	2.5	2	5.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

Table XVIII
NATURE OF FATHERS' EMPLOYMENT

Occupation	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
Own Business.....	3	2
Skilled or semi-skilled trade	5	9
Clerical work.....	1	0
Public Work.....	0	1
Factory Work.....	10	11
Truck Driving.....	2	2
Unskilled labor.....	8	11
Unknown.....	11	4
TOTALS	40	40

An analysis of the occupations of the fathers of the two groups (Table XVIII) shows is no striking difference. Among both groups three fathers of non recidivous boys as compared with two of the recidivous are in business for themselves; five as compared with nine are in skilled or semi-skilled trades (electricians, carpenters, painters, plumbers); like proportions are working in factories, ten as compared with eleven; a high proportion of both groups are unskilled workers such as porters, restaurant workers, janitors, bartenders and watchmen, eight as

compared with eleven, two fathers of each group are employed as truck drivers, while one father of a non recidivous boy was employed in clerical work (salesman) and one father of a recidivous boy was employed in public service (policeman). The occupations of fifteen fathers of the two groups are unknown.

Table XIX considers the occupation of mothers. On this point the two groups are again similar: sixteen of thirty-seven mothers of non recidivous boys as compared with fifteen of thirty-four mothers of recidivous boys worked outside the home. Although no marked difference is indicated, it does show that a high percentage of boys were deprived of maternal supervision. This, of course, was to be expected as the boys were committed during the war years of 1943--1946, during which time many women were employed in defense plants. Children have paid a heavy price for their mothers' war work because they were, for the most part, unsupervised in the home and had to shoulder many of the burdens of the home.

In addition to the employment of mothers, the night employment of parents can indicate a lack of supervision. It was found that nine fathers of the non recidivous boys and thirteen fathers of the recidivous groups worked evenings.

The relative weight of these unsatisfactory work hours

as a factor in delinquency cannot be assessed because, as is the case of other environmental factors, this can be done in the last analysis only upon an individual basis. Each child reacts differently to similar pressures.

Table XIX
OCCUPATION OF MOTHER

Occupation	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
Housewife.....	21	19
Employed Regularly outside home.....	12	13
Employed Occasionally outside Home.....	4	2
Unknown.....	3	6
TOTALS	40	40

THE DELINQUENT IN THE COMMUNITY:

In addition to home factors it is equally important to study the boys in the community; their jobs, their church attendance, their schooling and past delinquency. It is the purpose of this phase of the study to determine whether these factors are significant in comparing the two groups.

First of these factors to be considered is the employment records of the boys. We can assume that because of the

ages of the boys, and the fact that the greater majority of the boys were attending school at the time of commitment, that this employment was carried on after school hours.

In Table XX is listed a description of the occupations of the boys employed at any one time prior to the first commitment. Out of the study of the two groups it was found that eight (20.0 percent) non recidivous as compared with nineteen (47.5 percent) recidivous boys, were listed as having no employment record; seven (17.5 percent) non recidivous as compared with nine (22.5 percent) recidivous boys engaged primarily in street trades, such as newspaper selling. A lower proportion of the employed non recidivous boys (15.0 percent:22.5 percent) were engaged in unsupervised jobs such as delivery boys and pit sitters or any odd jobs they could obtain (20.0 percent:2.5 percent); a lower proportion of the recidivous was engaged in jobs in which some supervision was provided, for instance, store helpers and auto garage workers. No recidivous boys were employed in factories as compared with the 12.5 percent of the non recidivous group.

By the very nature of these jobs it would seem that the recidivous boys were employed in less favorable circumstances.

Table XX

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Street Trades.....	7	17.5	9	22.5
Unsupervised jobs.....	6	15.0	9	22.5
Odd Jobs.....	8	20.0	1	2.5
Supervised jobs.....	6	15.0	2	5.0
Factory work.....	5	12.5	0	0
None.....	8	20.0	19	47.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

The recidivous boys were less attracted to the performing of their religious duties, according to Table XXI; five (12.5 percent) as compared with fifteen (37.5 percent) of the non Recidivous boys attended church regularly (once or more a week); twenty-six (65.0 percent) as compared with twenty (50.0 percent) of the no recidivous group attended church occasionally, while a rather high proportion, nine (22.5 percent) recidivous as compared with five (12.5 percent) non recidivous boys did not attend at all. Statements from both the boys and their parents were used in determining the delinquents' adherence to their religious duties.

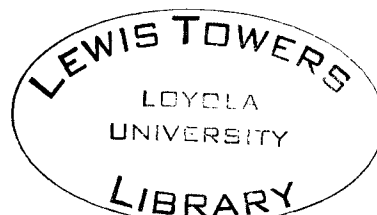


Table XXI
CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Attendance	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Regular.....	15	37.5	5	12.5
Occasional.....	20	50.0	26	65.0
None.....	5	12.5	9	22.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

Education was a home affair many years ago. Now, however the schools with trained personnel are taking over the job of training our young people. The school cannot hope to overcome all of the undesirable influences which may be present in the delinquent's home, but it is the school more than any other institution which has the child and gets him at an early age. Therefore, the school has an important place in the directing of a child's behavior.

Consideration of the school is now given because of the importance of the school in dealing with the problem of recidivism. In this study, every delinquent, whether recidivous or non recidivous, is or has been in school. Of the total groups under study, thirty-four (85.0 percent) of the non recidivous as compared with thirty-eight (95.0 percent) of the recidivous boys were attending school at the time of commitment.

The first consideration is given to the boy's attitude toward school. The attitudes toward schooling were secured from the statements of the boys or by their parents. For example, a dislike for school is indicated by the following statement: "I don't like school, I'd just as soon be working", or an indifferent attitude is manifested by the statement "Tony never was actually interested in going to school but seemed to feel that as long as he had to go, he might as well make the best of it"; an acceptance of school is shown by the statement, "I liked going to school, but I guess I got into the wrong crowd."

Table XXII
ATTITUDE TOWARD SCHOOL

Description	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Accepts.....	9	22.5	3	7.5
Indifferent.....	14	35.0	12	30.0
Dislikes.....	17	42.5	25	62.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

A marked difference was found between the two groups in their attitude toward school (Table XXII). There were nine (22.5 percent) of the non recidivous who accepted schooling, as compared with three (7.5 percent) of the recidivous; fourteen

(35.0 percent) of the former group as compared with twelve (30.0 percent) of the latter were indifferent toward school, and seventeen (42.5 percent) non recidivous boys as compared to twenty-five (62.5 percent) of the recidivous boys expressed dislike of school.

There were more shifting about from one school to another with the recidivous' boys. This was quite possibly a result of demands of correctional authorities or because more of the recidivous boys' homes has been disrupted. In Table XXIII, 22.5 percent of the recidivous as compared with 5.0 percent of the non recidivous attended five or more schools, and the recidivous group averaged 3.5 schools while the non recidivous averaged 2.8.

Table XXIII

SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Schools	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
1 School.....	6	15.0	4	10.0
2 Schools.....	7	17.5	9	22.5
3 Schools.....	18	45.0	11	27.5
4 Schools.....	7	17.5	7	17.5
5 Schools.....	1	2.5	5	12.5
6 Schools or more.....	1	2.5	4	10.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

Many more recidivous boys (77.5 percent:47.5 percent) had not gone beyond the seventh grade in school, and a small proportion of this group (2.5 percent:17.5 percent) had gone beyond the eighth grade, (Table XXIV). The recidivous boys were, as a group, a year behind the non recidivous boys in grade achievement; the average grade attained by the former was 6.4, and by the latter 7.4.

Table XXIV
LAST GRADE ATTAINED

Scholastic Attainment	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Less than Sixth Grade.....	2	5.0	11	27.5
Sixth Grade.....	9	22.5	6	15.0
Seventh Grade.....	8	20.0	14	35.0
Eighth Grade.....	14	35.0	8	20.0
Ninth Grade.....	6	15.0	1	2.5
Tenth Grade.....	1	2.5	0	0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

One of the most frequent predisposing or concomitant factors to other forms of delinquency is truancy. Since the truant, for the most part, is idle, there exists a strong predisposition to gradually drifting into delinquency. It is imperative

that each case of truancy be dealt with early, wisely and on a case-work basis for, as Van Waters states:

The manner in which the first serious truancy is handled may decide the fate of the child as to whether or not it will enter upon a career of delinquency.⁵

According to Table XXV most of the recidivous boys (97.5 percent) had truanted at one time or other during their school careers prior to their first commitment, while only 75.0 percent of the non recidivous boys had truanted. Of those recidivous boys who were truants, seven (17.5 percent) truanted occasionally while thirty-two (80.0 percent) truanted persistently.

Table XXV
TRUANCY FROM SCHOOL

Status	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Truanted				
Occasionally.....	19	47.5	7	17.5
Persistently.....	11	27.5	32	80.0
Never.....	10	25.0	1	2.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100 .0

⁵

Miriam Van Waters, Youth In Conflict, New York, 1926, 84

Table XXVI
PREVIOUS DELINQUENCY

Offense	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
Truancy from School.....	11	32
Truancy from Home.....	5	20
Larceny.....	5	5
Larceny of auto.....	11	3
Burglary.....	8	7
Sex Offense.....	2	1
Arson.....	0	1
Forgery.....	1	1
Attempted Burglary.....	1	0
None.....	8	0

Table XXVI sets forth the known previous delinquency of the two groups. Actually this statistical data can give no insight into the seriousness of the offense, the social situation or the personal maladjustment of which delinquency is usually a symptom. However, it seemed important to compare the previous delinquency of the two groups of offenders in relation to consistency and to the number of delinquent acts.

Truancy from school ranks first as the type of offense

which is most often violated. It is found in thirty-two cases of the recidivous as compared to eleven cases of the non recidivous. Truancy from home is second in proportion and is found in twenty cases of the recidivous. A significant factor as noted in this table is that all of the recidivous had previous delinquency records while eight non recidivous had none. There is some duplication in this table, since some of the boys had been involved in more than one type of offense.

SUMMARY:

In the foregoing analysis there was a close similarity in the majority of pre-commitment factors of the two groups of boys. There were a few notable differences.

A somewhat lower percentage of the recidivous boys were living with both their own parents and three times as many parents of this group were separated or divorced. The recidivous boys were less attracted to the performance of their religious duties.

More of the recidivous group expressed a dislike for school, and their school attainment was below that of the non recidivous group. The recidivous boys attended more schools. The most marked difference, however, between the two groups was in respect to truancy from school. Nearly three times as many of the recidivous boys were persistent truants.

Every boy in the recidivous group had a previous delinquency record while eight of the no recidivous boys had none. Truancy from home and school ranked high in the previous offenses of the recidivous boys, and they appeared to be involved in more serious offenses, such as larceny and burglary, than the non recidivous group.

CHAPTER III

COMMITMENT FACTORS

This chapter is concerned with the boys at the time of their commitment to the Illinois State Training School for Boys. Consideration is given to the reason for first commitment, other people involved in complaint, the boy's mental aptitude and physical condition, his adjustment at the training school, the length of commitment, and other siblings known to the Illinois State Training School for Boys.

Charles W. Leonard, in his paper given at the National Conference of Social Work, 1950, declared that:

Precedent has unfortunately labeled the correctional institution, especially the training school, a sort of social garbage can. Even some professional people have the idea that it is merely a stopover in a life of crime that ultimately ends with a long sentence in a penitentiary. Sadly enough, this is all too frequently true. It is true because too little was done for the boy or girl at a time when it was needed the most. Sending a boy to a training school as a last resource automatically becomes a punitive measure. ⁶

REASON FOR FIRST COMMITMENT:

The first factor to be considered is the reason for the boy's first commitment. The following table (Table XXVII) describes the nature of the offenses for which the boys were con-

⁶ Charles W. Leonard, Relationship of the Correctional Institution to Community Agencies, NPPA Yearbook, 1950, 101

fined. The most significant factor in this table is that most of the non recidivous and recidivous boys (75.0 : 77.5) committed larceny (including attempted larceny, conspiracy to commit larceny, larceny from person, and conspiracy to steal,) larceny of auto (including unauthorized use of auto), and burglary (including breaking and entering.)

In comparing the two groups in respect to the various offenses, a higher proportion of the non-recidivous group were committed for larceny of autos (30.0 percent:12.5 percent) sex offenses (this includes contributing to the delinquency of a minor and rape) (15.0 percent : 0 percent) and receiving stolen goods (2.5 percent). A higher proportion of the recidivous group were committed for larceny (20.0 percent:17.5 percent) burglary (45.0 percent:27.5 percent), truancy from home (5 percent 0 percent) truancy from school (7.5 percent:5.0 percent), arson (5.0 percent:2.5 percent), and incorrigibility (5.0 percent 0 percent).

Table XXVII
REASON FOR FIRST COMMITMENT

Offense	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Larceny.....	7	17.5	8	20.0
Larceny of Auto.....	12	30.0	5	12.5
Burglary.....	11	27.5	18	45.0
Truancy from Home.....	0	0	2	5.0
Truancy from School...	2	5.0	3	7.5
Sex Offense.....	6	15.0	0	0
Receiving Stolen goods.	1	2.5	0	0
Arson.....	1	2.5	2	5.0
Incorrigible.....	0	0	2	5.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

OTHERS INVOLVED IN COMPLAINT:

Delinquent acts are often committed in, and influenced by groups. These groups, or gangs as they are often termed, are not in themselves evil, but they become dangerous when they take a delinquent trend. The influence the gang will have over the boy is often a result of a combination of environmental and emotional factors.

Shaw and McKay found that:

Most juvenile offenses are committed by groups of boys, few by individuals alone. Out of 5,480 offenders, 81.8 percent had committed their offenses in the company of others. Stealing was particularly a group phenomenon, 89 percent of those charged with theft had had companions.⁷

As evidenced in Table XXVIII, a large proportion of the two groups committed the offense accompanied by other children. It should be noticed, however, to find that a minority of the non-recidivous boys committed the offense alone (10 percent:30 percent).

Table XXVIII
OTHERS INVOLVED IN COMPLAINT

Number	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
None.....	4	10.0	12	30.0
1 Boy.....	14	35.0	14	35.0
2 Boys.....	12	30.0	9	22.5
3 Boys.....	7	17.5	3	7.5
4 Boys.....	1	2.5	2	5.0
5 Boys.....	1	2.5	0	0
7 Boys.....	1	2.5	0	0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

⁷ Clifford R. Shaw and Henry D. McKay, Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas, University of Chicago Press, 1942, 195

MENTAL APTITUDE:

All entrants to the Illinois State Training School for Boys are given routine intelligence tests, usually the Stanford Revision of the Binet test, and sometimes other additional tests.

Even if a satisfactory measure of intelligence were to be obtained, intellectual ability in itself would be but one segment of the considerations to be taken into account in correlating mentality with recidivism. Consideration is now given to the intelligence quotients of the two groups of boys.

In Table XXIX, thirty (75.0 percent) of the non recidivous group fell within the average classification, while this was only true of twenty (50.0 percent) of the recidivious group. Approximately the same proportion of the two groups were of superior and very superior intelligence quotients (12.5 percent:7.0 percent). More important, perhaps, is the comparison of the two groups falling below the average classification. Seven (17.5 percent) of the non recidivous boys, as compared with fifteen (37.5 percent) of the recidivous boys were classified as below average.

The intelligence distribution of the two groups, with a large percentage of the receidivous group in the lower classifications, is significant when taken into consideration with the school adjustment of these boys in which many turned to truancy from school.

Table XXIX

A COMPARISON OF INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENTS

Classification	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
High-grade Defective..... (Below 70)	1	2.5	0	0
Borderline Defective..... (70-79)	0	0	6	15.0
Slightly Below Average... (80-89)	6	15.0	9	22.5
Low Average..... (90-94)	9	22.5	6	15.0
Middle Average..... (95-105)	11	27.5	9	22.5
High Average..... (106-109)	10	25.0	5	12.5
Superior..... (110-119)	3	7.5	3	7.5
Very Superior..... (Above 120)	0	0	2	5.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

An important factor to be considered is whether the non Recidivous boys differ from the recidivous group in respect to in physical condition.

Physical inferiority or defects may contribute to criminal behavior by limiting the child's development, perhaps even to the extent of developing an abnormal personality. Defects, such as carious teeth, defective vision, glandular disturbances, and stuttering, or other malformations may set the boys apart from the group. They may resort to delinquent behavior as a means of

compensation for an unhappy condition.

Thirty-three of the forty in the non-recidivous group were found to be in good physical condition at the time of commitment as compared with twenty-one of the forty recidivous boys. Of the non recidivous group there were four boys described as having a speech impediment. In the recidivous group, two boys were found to have a speech defect, and two were classified as being homosexual. Table XXX describes those boys having some physical abnormality.

Table XXX
HEALTH STATUS

Health	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
Rheumatic Heart.....	2	0
Scabies.....	1	0
Poor Teeth.....	1	3
Poor Eyes.....	1	3
Bad Foot.....	1	0
Phimosis.....	1	0
Acne.....	0	1
Fainting Spells.....	0	1
Venera l Infection.....	0	1
Obesity.....	0	1
Possible Diphtheria carrier	0	1
Good Health.....	33	29
TOTALS	40	40

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ADJUSTMENT AT THE ILLINOIS STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS:

The training school is but one of the resources available for the social treatment of the juvenile offender. The focus of the training school program could be said to be the training of the delinquents to live in the larger community outside the school, and not the training of the delinquents to fit into an institutional program. S. R. Slavson, in his paper given at the National Conference of Social Work, 1950, stated that:

A patient will correct attitudes and feelings when he has a purpose acceptable to him, for without such a purpose treatment may be well-nigh impossible. ⁸

The following three tables describe the boys' academic, vocational and social adjustment at the training school. The terms, good, fair, and poor adjustments were found in the reports from the training school in describing the boys' over-all adjustment.

As indicated in Table XXXI, a higher percentage of the non-recidivous boys made a good academic adjustment (65.0 percent 27.5 percent) while the majority of the recidivous boys made a fair adjustment (55.0 percent:25.0 percent) and a poor showing (17.5 percent:10.0 percent).

⁸ S.R. Slavson "Institutional Treatment of the Delinquent" NPPA Yearbook, 1950, 50.

Table XXXI
ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENT

Adjustment	Non- Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Good.....	26	65.0	11	27.5
Fair.....	10	25.0	22	55.0
Poor.....	4	10.0	7	17.5
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

Table XXXII
VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Adjustment	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Good.....	32	80.0	14	35.0
Fair.....	8	20.0	20	50.0
Poor.....	0	0	6	15.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

Table XXXII reveals that thirty-two (80.0 percent) of the non-recidivous boys as compared with fourteen (35.0 percent) of the recidivous group made a good vocational adjustment. In (20.0 percent:50.0 percent) respectively, more of the recidivous group made a fair adjustment. Six (15.0 percent) of the recidivous boys were classified as making a poor adjustment as compared with none of the non-recidivous group.

The boy's social adjustment pertains to associations with other boys during his confinement. In Table XXXIII, twenty-seven (67.5 percent) of the non recidivous boys as compared with sixteen (40.0 percent) of the recidivous boys had made a good social adjustment. Nine (22.5 percent) of the non-recidivous and twenty (50.0 percent) of the recidivous made a fair showing, while four (10.0 percent) of each group were said to have made a poor social adjustment.

Table XXXIII
SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

Adjustment	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Good.....	27	67.5	16	40.0
Fair.....	9	22.5	20	50.0
Poor.....	4	10.0	4	10.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT:

In the final analysis, the length of the boy's commitment is important in comparing the commitment factors of the two groups of boys. There are perhaps many reasons why some boys are committed for longer period of time than are others. A more likely reason is that they have failed to make a satisfactory adjustment, and it is felt that they are not ready to resume their social position in the community outside the school.

The only purpose of Table XXXIV is to compare the length of commitment of the two groups of boys. Sixteen (40.0 percent) of the non recidivous as compared with fifteen (37.5 percent) of the recidivous boys were confined for a period of from eight to ten months. Fourteen (35.0 percent) of the non-recidivous groups and eight (20.0 percent) of the recidivous group were committed for periods less than eight months. Then ten (25.0 percent) and seventeen (42.5 percent) respectively were committed for periods ranging from eleven months to twenty-one months.

Table XXXIV
LENGTH OF COMMITMENT

Months	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Less than 5.....	2	5.0	0	0
5 -- 7.....	12	30.0	8	20.0
8 -- 10.....	16	40.0	15	37.5
11 -- 12.....	5	12.5	7	17.5
13 -- 15.....	1	2.5	7	2.5
16 -- 18.....	4	10.0	1	2.5
19 -- 21.....	0	0	2	5.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

SUMMARY

Comparison of the commitment factors of the two groups indicates a similarity as to the reasons for their first commitment. The majority of both groups were confined for larceny and burglary. One significant factor is that six of the non-recidivous boys were committed for a sex offense as compared with none of the recidivous boys.

A large proportion of the two groups were involved with other boys in perpetrating the offense, with a minority of the non recidivous boys committing the offense alone.

As to the mental aptitude of both groups the intelligence distribution of the recidivous group is seen to fall distinctly below that of the non recidivous group. Most of the boys were found to be in good health at the time of their commitment. There is indication, however, that more of the recidivous group had the disadvantage of physical defects.

Regarding the adjustment of the boys at the training school, the over all adjustment of the non recidivous group excelled that of the recidivous group. Most notable difference was found to be in their vocational adjustment.

Since the recidivous boys made a relatively poor adjust-

ment as compared with the nonrecidivous group, it is not surprising that a large proportion of this group were confined for a period of eleven months or more.

CHAPTER IV

POST COMMITMENT FACTORS

The release from the Illinois State Training School for Boys determined merely on the basis of the adjustment the boys make during commitment. The conditions of living, education, and work arrangement after release are also considered. Help, guidance, and supervisor for these boys leaving the training school and for their families is an important part of the services program. The majority of the boys come to the training school from less than ideal homes and the bulk of them return to these homes. Without continued help, the time and effort invested in the institutional training would no doubt be wasted.

This Chapter is concerned with the post-commitment factors. In this study, consideration is given to the boy's future plans, the parents' plans for the boy's future, and their placement after release. Also included is the time interval until the recommitment of the recidivous group. Although this latter factor has no comparative value, it is, nevertheless, an important consideration.

BOY'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:

The most important element in any given situation is how those involved regard the planning for the boy's future. It is not the situation itself that is so important, but the feeling

tones of the people in the situation. The future plans expressed by the boys and the plans of the parents for the boy's future are all bound together and react upon each other.

In Table XXXV, the descriptions of the boy's own future plans were gotten from statements of the worker in recording the boy's own attitudes. Statements in the case records as the following indicated that the boy had definite plans; "the boy desires to return to the community as quickly as possible in order that he can continue school and try to prove to his family and friends that he can be a useful citizen"; the following illustrates a vague plan: "he believes that he will return to work after his release although he has frequently considered returning to school"; statements such as this indicated that the boy had no future plans: "he has no specific plans as to what he will do after his release".

In the following table, thirty-six (90.0 percent) of the non recidivous as compared to twenty-one (52.5 percent) of the recidivous group had definite plans. Four (10.0 percent) of the non recidivous as compared to seventeen (42.5 percent) of the recidivous boys had vague plans, while two (5.0 percent) of the latter group expressed no future plans.

Table XXXV
BOY'S OWN FUTURE PLANS

Description	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Definite.....	36	90.0	21	52.5
Vague.....	4	10.0	17	42.5
None.....	0	0	2	5.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

PARENTS' PLAN FOR BOY'S FUTURE

Table XXXVI considers the parents' plans for the boy's future. The descriptions of their plans were also obtained from the worker's case recorded statements. For example, a statement of the parents' definite plans declared, "Both parents agree that this boy should obtain a job after his release"; a statement of vague plans, "Whatever he plans to do, we want to know what he's doing"; or no future plans by the declaration, "Everything he does, he always manages to get into difficulty; he'll just be one big trouble for us."

Thirty-five (87.5 percent) of the parents of the non recidivous group as compared with twenty-four (60.0 percent) of the parents of the recidivous had definite plans concerning the boy's future. Four (10.0 percent) of the parents of the non recidivous as compared with fourteen (35.0 percent) of the parents

of the recidivous group expressed vague plans. A small proportion had no future plans; one (2.5 percent) of the parents of the non recidivous as compared with two (5.0 percent) of the parents of the recidivous group.

Table XXXVI
PARENTS' PLAN FOR THE BOY'S FUTURE ³

Description	Non-Recidivous	%	Recidivous	%
Definite.....	35	87.5	24	60.0
Vague.....	4	10.0	14	35.0
None.....	1	2.5	2	5.0
TOTALS	40	100.0	40	100.0

³ Table includes substitute parents

It was found that a larger proportion of the non recidivous group returned to school after their release (62.5 percent 42.5 percent) while the remaining percentage of the two groups obtained some type of employment.

PLACEMENT AFTER RELEASE:

Positive gains made from the training school program will be of little consequence unless constructive planning has been done in the determining of the boy's placement after release. The possibilities for placement of the boys are varied. The three most frequent types of placement were with parents, relatives and

foster homes.

There is very little difference in comparing the placements of the two groups of boys. Thirty-eight of the non recidivous as compared with thirty-four of the recidivous group returned to their previous homes.

There were four cases of the non recidivous and one case of the recidivous boy returning to the same home, but a different location. One non recidivous boy as compared with two recidivous boys returned to the home of a relative and one non recidivous boy and four recidivous boys were placed in foster homes.

Table XXXVII
PLACEMENT AFTER RELEASE

Placement	Non-Recidivous	Recidivous
Same.....	34	33
Same (New Location).....	4	1
Other:		
Relative.....	1	2
Foster Home.....	1	4
TOTAL	40	40

TIME INTERVAL UNTIL RECOMMITMENT:

A final consideration is given to the time interval until recommitment of the recidivous group (Table XXXVIII).

Interesting is the fact that the total group were re-committed within a period of twenty-two months. Over half of the boys, twenty-four (60.0 percent), were returned in seven months or less.

Table XXXVIII

TIME INTERVAL UNTIL RECOMMITMENT

Months	Recidivous
Less than 2 months.....	7
2 -- 4	9
5 -- 7.....	8
8 -- 10.....	6
11 -- 13.....	4
14 -- 16.....	3
17 -- 19.....	2
19 -- 22.....	1
TOTAL	<hr/> 40

SUMMARY:

In this Chapter, it seems clear that the non recidivous group had as an advantage the favorable preparation for their future. Both the parents and the boys in this group had formulated specific plans for the future in regard to either the boy's

further schooling or his vocations.

The majority of both groups of boys returned to their previous homes, while the remaining boys were replaced in foster homes and homes of relatives. There was found to be a somewhat larger proportion of the recidivous group returning to placement other than their previous ones.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY:

The foregoing chapters have established the resemblances and differences between the non-recidivous and recidivous delinquents in each area of the study.

In considering the pre-commitment factors in Chapter II there was found to be a close similarity between the two groups of boys. Significant factors were those that indicated that few of the recidivous boys were living with their own parents, and that many of their parents were separated or divorced. The recidivous group had a less favorable religious and employment background. There was marked difference between the two groups in regard to school factors of which the most interesting factor was that the majority of the recidivous boys were persistent truants. Finally it was revealed that the total group of recidivous boys had had previous delinquency records as compared to a fairly high percentage of the no recidivous boys who had none.

The commitment factors indicated a more decisive difference between the two groups. Almost half of the non recidivous group were committed for larceny of autos and sex offences while an equal proportion of the recidivous boys were committed for burglary. A large percentage of the non recidivous boys committed their violation accompanied by one or more companions. A

striking difference was found between the two groups in regard to their intelligence quotients. The intelligence distribution of the recidivous group fell far below that of the non recidivous boys. In regard to training school adjustment, the factors indicated that there was a statistically significant difference between the two groups, the non recidivous boys making a far better adjustment.

A comparison of the post placement plans disclosed more desirable advantages concerning the non recidivous boys. More of the boys and their parents in this group had formulated specific plans for the boy's schooling or vocational future.

CONCLUSIONS:

There is no one single cause of the complex problem of recidivism. No one set of conditions can be considered as exerting influences apart from others. Frequently a number of factors occur together in a given situation. The contention that not just one factor but many various factors may play a part in recidivism must be recognized. The factors derived from this study are not, taken by themselves, likely to explain recidivism.

It may therefore be concluded that special services and measures are needed to meet the particular problems involved. The principle difference between the non recidivous and the recidivous

delinquent is that the latter group has more of a need for long time and long ranged skilled and individualized service.

All must play a part in rehabilitating the parolee; the parole worker in his use of case work skills; the courts in realizing that a child guidance clinic can work equally as well as an institution in the treatment of the offender, the parents in being prototypes of social, emotional, moral and spiritual maturity, capable of inspiring their children to adopt their ideals in daily living; the schools in offering prevocational and vocational programs, and the community in establishing community centers and community programs in delinquency areas.

APPENDIX I

SCHEDULE

PRE-COMMITMENT FACTORS

Identifying Information:

Name _____ Case Number _____
 Address _____ Recid. _____ Non Recid _____
 Date of Birth _____ Place _____

GUARDIANS:

Name	Relat.	Age	Place of Birth	Occu.	Relig.	Marital Status
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

TYPE OF NEIGHBORHOOD:

Heavy Manufacturing and Railroads _____ Light Manufacturing and Commercial area _____
 Residential _____

TYPE OF HOUSE:

Private Home _____ No. of rooms _____ Length of Residence _____
 Apartment _____ No. of rooms _____ No. living in home _____

SOURCE OF FAMILY INCOME:

Father _____ Mother _____ Siblings _____ Others _____

BOY LIVING WITH PARENTS: Yes No

Father's absence from home Yes No Reason _____

Mother's absence from home Yes No Reason _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY _____ Ordinal rank _____

CHURCH ATTEND: BOY Reg. Occ. None Mother Reg. Occ. None
Father Reg. Occ. None

BOYS WORK RECORD:

Type _____

SCHOOL:

No. of Schools attended _____ Last grade attained _____

ATTITUDE TOWARD SCHOOL:

Accepts _____ Dislikes _____ Indifferent _____

TRUANCY:

Occasionally _____ Persistently _____ Never Truant _____

COURT RECORD OF OTHERS IN FAMILY:

Mother _____ Father _____ Brother _____ Sister _____

COMMITMENT FACTORS

PRIOR TO COMMITMENT:

Date first committed _____ Charge _____

Age _____ Other children involved in complaint _____

Length of commitment From _____ to _____

Attending school at time of commitment Yes No

Previous delinquency _____

During Commitment:

Academic adjustment Good _____ Poor _____ Average _____

Vocational adjustment Good _____ Poor _____ Average _____

Social adjustment Good _____ Poor _____ Average _____

Psychological IQ _____ Test _____ Class _____ Date _____

Medical data _____

Siblings known to training school Brothers _____ Sisters _____

POST PLACEMENT PLANS

PARENTS PLAN FOR BOYS FUTURE:

Definite _____ Vague _____ None _____

BOYS PLAN FOR FUTURE:

Definite _____ Vague _____ None _____

PLACEMENT:

Same _____ Other _____

RECOMMITMENT:

No. of months _____

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